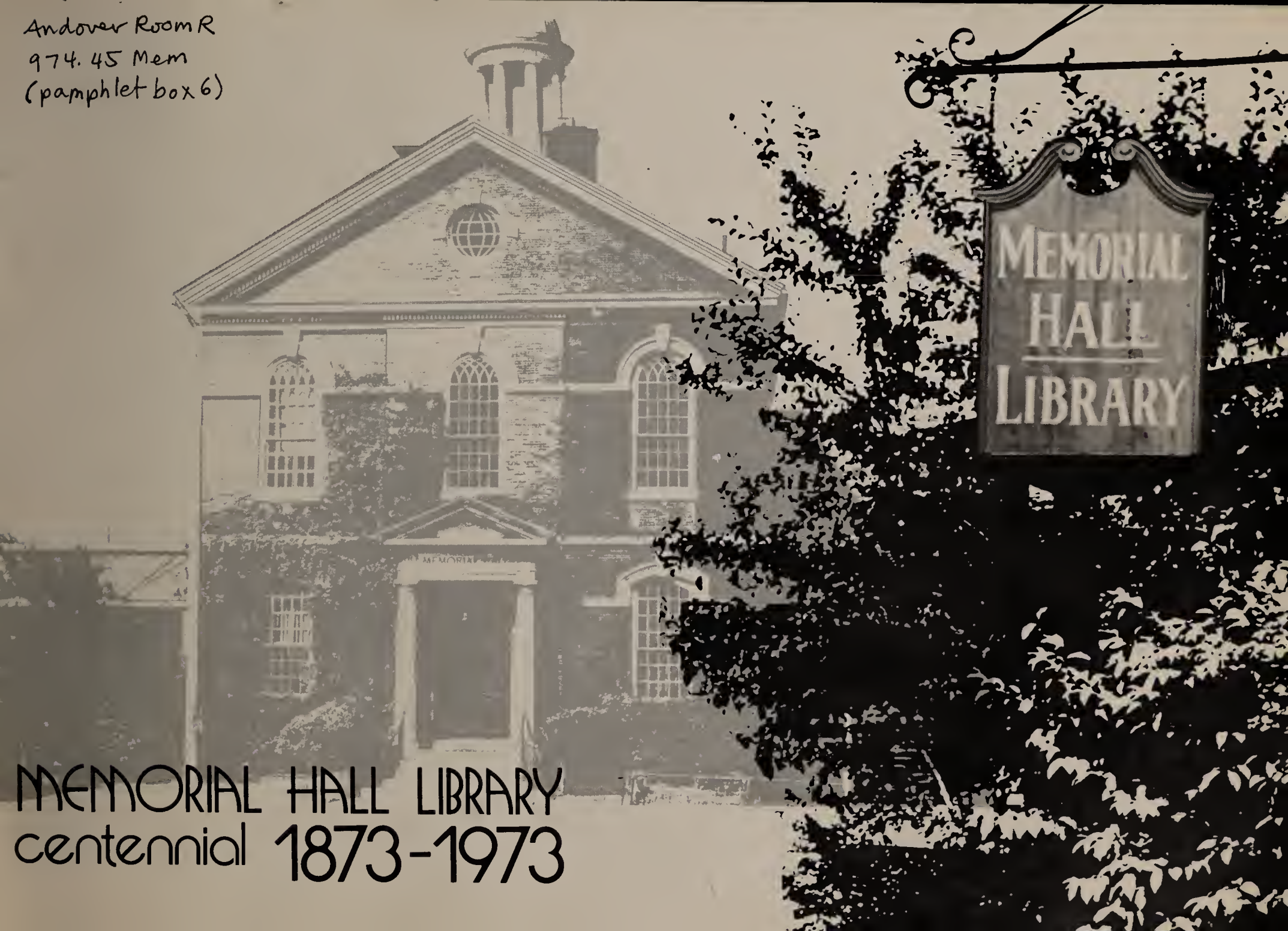
Andover Room R
974.45 Mem
(pamphlet box 6)



MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY
centennial 1873-1973

"Andover, everywhere and always, first and last, she has been the manly, straightforward, sober, patriotic New England town."

Rev. Phillips Brooks, circa 1880

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Andover Room R
974.45 Mem
(pamphlet box 6)

In the early years of Andover, trees formed the only skyline where Indians and deer roamed the fields and waded in the softly flowing rivers. Two hundred years later, in the industrial era of the 1800s, mill chimneys rose high above the trees. Church steeples, too, cast themselves against the sky. The paths had become roads to accommodate the horse and buggy. Later, tracks were installed for the train and trolley. Farms and businesses thrived as did the academies, Phillips and Abbot. Today many of the early churches and schools still flourish but the land itself has been ribboned with highways and spotted with homes, small businesses and large industrial plants.

Andover has been described as a symbol of New England and all that this term has come to mean: first and foremost Yankee, Republican, Congregational, conservative, smug, bucolic, practical and typically American. The feeling of unity and the Puritanical fervor that once existed has mellowed. Today we are not so sure just what typically American means.

The excitements of the past: the Underground Railroad, the Abolitionist Movement, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Samuel Francis Smith, the musterings on the Common for the Revolution and the Civil War, and the controversies of the Mill, the Hill and the Till are now only curiosities. Common ancestry and tradition are rapidly fading.

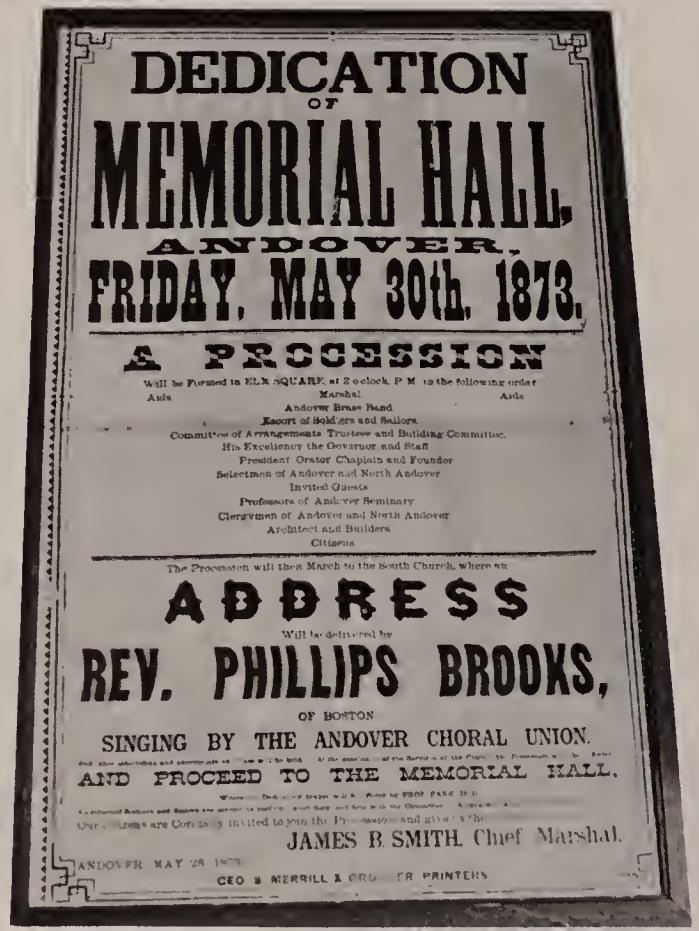
"Located within commuting distance of Boston but economically a part of the Lawrence metropolitan area, Andover has been absorbed by neither, retaining its individuality and its small town characteristics to a marked degree. . ."

Library Education in Action Study, 1954

Town Meeting survives for good or ill, depending on one's point of view. The influx of new young families from many parts of the United States and abroad brings new attitudes and a more cosmopolitan outlook. For the most part, the current population reflects the professional, well-educated suburbanite and his family. Over all, one might characterize the town's attitude toward the future as one of active interest in preserving the pastoral atmosphere of a residential community originally endowed with an abundance of natural beauty, a commitment to its educational goals, and a concern for an orderly, planned growth of industry.

Statement of purpose of the first trustees' Special Report, 1872

". . .to make the Library and Reading Room in the largest degree useful to the greatest number of the living citizens of Andover, young and old, as a new center of historic treasures and popular culture. . ."



DEDICATION
OF
MEMORIAL HALL,
ANDOVER,
FRIDAY, MAY 30th, 1873.

A PROCESSION

Will be Formed in ELM SQUARE, at 2 o'clock, P. M. in the following order

Aids — Marshal — Aids

Andover Brass Band
Escort of Soldiers and Sailors
Committee of Arrangements, Trustees and Building Committee
His Excellency the Governor and Staff
President, Orator, Chaplain and Founder
Selectmen of Andover and North Andover
Invited Guests
Professors of Andover Seminary
Clergymen of Andover and North Andover
Architect and Builders
Citizens

The Procession will then March to the South Church, where an

ADDRESS

Will be delivered by

REV. PHILLIPS BROOKS,

OF BOSTON

SINGING BY THE ANDOVER CHORAL UNION.

AND PROCEED TO THE MEMORIAL HALL,

Where Dedicatory Prayer will be Offered by PROF. PARK, D. D.

Our Citizens are Cordially invited to join the Procession and attend the

JAMES B. SMITH, Chief Marshal.

ANDOVER, MAY 26, 1873.

GEO. S. MERRILL & BRO., PRINTERS

The War of the Rebellion or, as we now know it, the Civil War, was indirectly responsible for the beginnings of the library. Begun as a Memorial Hall, Library and Reading Room in honor of the Civil War dead, the building reminds us of its original purpose by the preservation of the Hall with its marble plaques listing all of the Andover veterans of that war. The Library and Reading Room have burgeoned into three additions during the twentieth century.

Although there was a small private circulating library association begun in 1840 in Frye Village, now Shawsheen, the Brechin Library of the Andover Theological Seminary, and a few other social libraries, Memorial Hall library was the first public library in Andover at a time when the idea of a free library was just becoming popular.

John Smith, founder of Memorial Hall Library.

"The Memorial Hall, with its relics and tablets, has gradually given way during the years in importance to Memorial Hall LIBRARY, the conservator of cultural and human values. . ."

Miriam Putnam, 1946

The fruitful accomplishment received its impetus from John Smith, a wealthy Andover mill owner who had had no formal education himself, but who proposed to donate $25,000, providing the town raised an equal amount for the erection and establishment of this on-going monument. In 1927, the Victorian roofline was modified to a more Georgian design and a Children's Room was added. In 1961, the Children's Room was enlarged and the work area was increased. The current reading room addition was completed in 1966. Altogether, they characterize the present Memorial Hall Library.

Gone are the days when more religious books were added to the collection than any other category save fiction. Stowe, Alcott, Hugo, Dickens, Lord Byron, and the Brontes were on the shelves from the beginning but so were hundreds of writers long since forgotten.

Memorial Hall Library at the turn of the century.

The renovated library, 1927.

The iron fence that once surrounded the front of the building kept out wandering cows. A horse watering trough with a faucet and a cup for the drivers' use later became a drinking fountain. The two cannons once seen on the lawn were carted away for scrap iron in World War II.

RULES AND REGULATIONS
1873

"Memorial Hall and Reading-room shall be free to all residents in Andover, over fourteen years of age."

". . .No person shall lunch or smoke or spit on the floor in any part of the building."

"No person shall be allowed to have more than one volume from the Library at any one time."

Ballard Holt, 2nd, Librarian from 1873 to 1906.

In May of 1873, Ballard Holt, 2nd was appointed Librarian and Janitor, and the library opened its doors after a flowery dedicatory address by Phillips Brooks, famed orator of the day. In 1906, Edna A. Brown, author of numerous children's books, many of which were probably written during her tenure at the library, became Librarian and Mr. Holt continued as Janitor. Miriam Putnam arrived to replace the retiring Miss Brown in 1939 and remained until 1967, improving, strengthening and enlightening the entire library scene. In 1967, A. J. Anderson assumed the position of Director. When Mr. Anderson returned to Simmons College to teach, Miss Frances Bold succeeded him. Since 1971, Harry Sagris has continued the ever-broadening activities of the library.

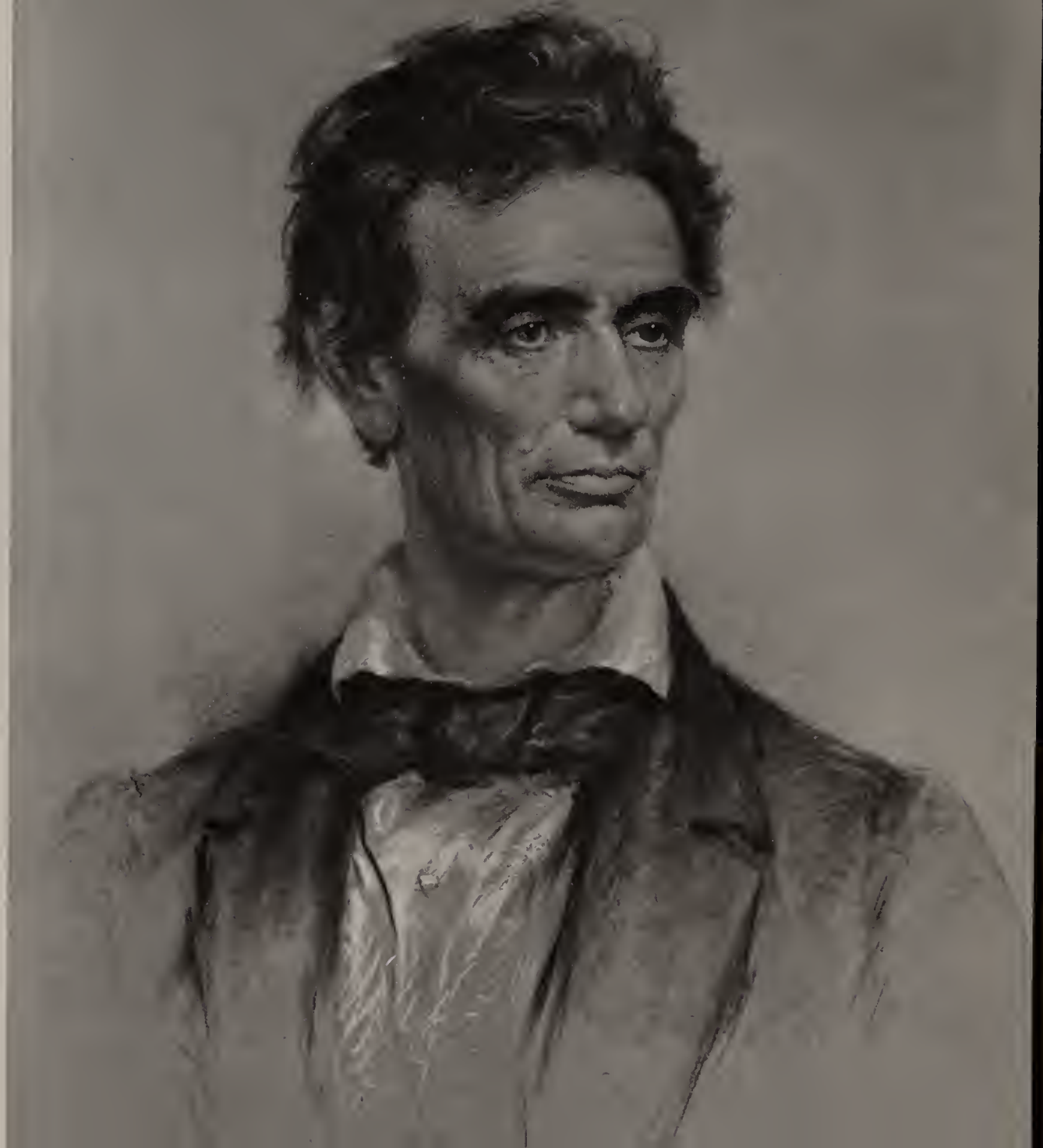
The Directors of the past contributed greatly to the library's progress. They were farseeing, energetic and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community, the region and the Commonwealth. Along with the support of the townspeople, these men and women helped to make the library an outstanding one. Thus, this one hundredth anniversary is a mutual celebration of patrons, staff, and trustees, willingly and enthusiastically supported by the citizens of Andover.

"They want my head, do they?"
A. Lincoln to Charles Barry

A brooding Abraham Lincoln looks down from the wall in the main room of the library. It is fitting that the library should be so fortunate as to have this rather special portrait because of its ties with Lincoln's era.

The charcoal drawing was done in Springfield in 1860 before Lincoln left for Washington to assume the presidency. The artist, Charles Barry, had been commissioned by prominent Republicans of Massachusetts to do the work. According to Lincoln, it was the first likeness of him done from life.

The portrait has been in the library since 1916 when it was received as a bequest from George Henry Torr of Andover. Until 1946, none of the Lincoln scholars knew what had become of the drawing. That year, Miriam Putnam, then Library Director, read a newspaper article describing the missing portrait and immediately recognized it as the one in the library's possession. After verification from several authorities, it was established that this was, in fact, the long lost portrait. The missing links in the travels of the portrait have yet to be discovered.



Charcoal drawing of Lincoln
by Charles Barry, 1860.

A long forgotten poem. Car repair. Antique prices. Navigational techniques. Wedding etiquette. Organic gardening. College entrance information. Here are just a few of the varied topics the reference librarians deal with in a day. The department answers an every-increasing number of requests both within the library and by telephone. Service is offered twelve hours a day and eight hours on Saturday. Businessmen, school children, college students, teachers, and married women are the most frequent users. A quarter of the patrons come for reference materials or with reference questions.

Business in the Circulation Department has skyrocketed. In 1960, over 137,000 items were circulated; in 1972, over 319,000. Today, not only books leave the building but records, cassettes, tapes, slides, 8 and 16 mm films, talking books, books in braille, large-print books, magnifying readers, framed prints, and works of sculpture.

A microfilm reader, reader-printer, and microfiche reader are available for research purposes. Old local newspapers, The New York Times dating back from 1910, and older editions of other popular magazines are in the microfilm collection. A microfiche collection has just been started with an in-depth collection of materials on the American Indian and American Literature.

The Audio-Visual Department loans out 16mm projectors, 8mm projectors, tape recorders and players, and cassette players to local organizations.

Circulation Department.

Microfilm reader.

Reading Room.

The Print Room.

The Record Room.

The Record Department has two record players with earphones in the record room for listening pleasure. Included in the 4,000 plus collection are many how-to-do-it records such as dictation lessons, Chinese language lessons, and yoga, in addition to classical, opera, rock, popular, folk, poetry and drama.

The Technical Processing Department, an important part of the iceberg that the patron never sees, processed over 10,000 volumes in 1972 plus all of the other print and non-print material acquired. The collection now holds about 110,000 books, 350 current magazines and newspapers, over 300 framed prints and pieces of sculpture, 3,000 reels of microfilm, and over one hundred 8mm films.

Technical Processing Department.

The Ballardvale Branch of Memorial Hall Library was opened in 1913 and has been in operation ever since. Story hours, reference service, books and periodicals are available during the two days a week it is open.

Ballardvale Branch.

Children's section
at Ballardvale.

The Interlibrary Loan department is an arm of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System. It is funded by the Commonwealth for personnel, materials, communications, and vehicles. Andover, as one of the seven subregional libraries in Eastern Massachusetts, provides a daily delivery service to the town libraries of Amesbury, Boxford, West Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Groveland, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Lawrence, Manchester, Merrimac, Methuen, Middleton, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, North Reading, Rockport, Rowley, Salisbury, Topsfield, Wenham, and West Newbury. The Boston Public Library has a daily delivery to Andover.

In September of 1963, the Trustees of Memorial Hall Library voted acceptance of the regional system and in July of 1964 signed a contract with the Commonwealth. The growth in the past ten years has been phenomenal. It is no longer unusual to have fifty to seventy-five requests for materials in one day plus a number of reference questions.

Any library card holder may request a book or other material which Memorial Hall Library does not have. Often the requested item is available to the patron within a few days; sometimes it takes a little longer. Andover is able to draw from the Boston Public Library, some university libraries and nearly all the public libraries in the Eastern region.

Signing of the Sub-regional contract June 22, 1967. Left to right seated: Richard J. Sullivan, Chairman of the Board of Library Commissioners; Cornelia Fitts, Memorial Hall Library Trustee. Standing: A. J. Anderson, Associate Director; Richard J. Bowen, Andover Town Manager; Harriet Gilcreast, first Inter-library Loan Librarian; Miriam Putnam, Director.

The Children's Room can be a bustling beehive or as quiet as the proverbial mouse, depending on the time of day and the activity. The bustling comes in the afternoons when school children are busily trying to locate material for the latest report. The quiet is found during a story hour for preschoolers when a child can sit on a patchwork carpet and listen to a story while his eye easily wanders to the blue sky, the flowering shrubs and birds at the feeder just outside the low windows.

Story hours for the Littlest Listeners and Pajama Party are complemented by chess tournaments, a book reviewing group (VIBOR), science demonstrations, kite building sessions, model contests, arts and crafts weeks, and film festivals.

Children's records, magazines, puzzles for all ages, large print and talking books for the visually handicapped, as well as multi-media packages that consist of coordinated books and records, are geared to children through the sixth grade.

The Children's Room is many things. Sometimes it's watching tropical fish, or peering into an elaborate doll house on exhibit, or maybe listening to records with earphones, but perhaps most important, it is finding a really exciting book to curl up with.

Annual used book sale.

Throughout the year the library sponsors activities as diverse as chess tournaments, concerts, Chinese lessons, art exhibits, fashion shows, and international teas. Lectures on health, welfare, creativity, income tax, organic foods, and an Author's Series on Hawthorne, Thoreau, Cather and Bradstreet have been presented. There are film programs for children, teenagers, senior citizens, residents of nursing homes and housing projects, as well as the general public. The Orbit Club, which caters to young adults, the Opera Club, and the Great Books Club offer programs for varied interests. The library has promoted an information service for the unemployed, for volunteers, and for many other specialized projects.

Every May the Library sponsors an Arts and Crafts Festival where artisans of every sort demonstrate and display their works. Monthly exhibits of paintings or photographs grace the mezzanine balcony while Ukranian Easter eggs, sleigh bells, meerschaum pipes, and artifacts from various countries and eras are to be found in the display cases.

The library cooperates with community groups, garden clubs, colleges and organizations such as the International Institute and the League of Women Voters in providing public interest programs. Each day one can find civic groups of every size using the Print Room, the Trustees' Room or the Hall for a myriad of meetings.

The recently formed Friends of the Library has been active in acquiring speakers, delivering books to shut-ins, supplying books for the Lawrence Jail and conducting the annual use book sale.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Dr. Ernest F. Costello, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Edward I. Erickson
Mrs. Bernice Warshaw
Mr. Richard C. MacGowan
Dr. Fred G. Arragg
Mrs. Marta Hornidge
Mr. Frederick S. Allis, Jr.

J. Maynard Austin, Town Manager

STAFF 1973

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Nancy Jacobson, Assistant Director
Maywood Kenney, Executive Secretary

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Alice Reed
Barbara Wyper
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Mildred Krause (Retired)
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Ruth Sharpe

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Gwendolen Smith

AUDIO VISUAL AND YOUNG ADULT
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RECORD DEPARTMENT
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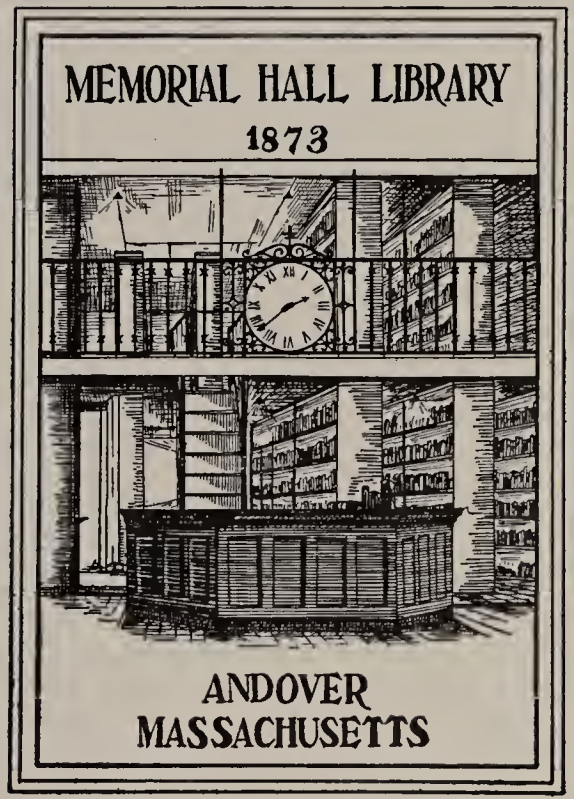
Barbara Wyper



Written and compiled by Nancy Jacobson
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